

PIT

PISMIERE. *n. f.* [myra, Sax. *pismiere*, Dutch.] An ant; an emmet.

His cloaths, as atoms might prevail,
Might fit a *pismiere* or a whale. *Prior.*

Prejudicial to fruit are *pismites*, caterpillars and mice. *Mort.*

To **PISS**. *v. n.* [*pisser*, Fr. *pisser*, Dutch.] To make water.

I charge the *pisling* conduit run nothing but claret. *Shakefp.*

One als *pisles*, the rest *pis* for company. *L'Estrange.*

Once possels'd of what with care you save,
The wanton boys would *pis* upon your grave. *Dryden.*

PISS. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Urine; animal water.

My spleen is at the little rogues, it would vex one more to
be knock'd on the head with a *pis*-pot than a thunder
bolt. *Pope to Swift.*

PISSABED. *n. f.* A yellow flower growing in the grass.

PISSBURN. *adj.* Stained with urine.

PISTACHIO. *n. f.* [*pisstache*, Fr. *pisstachi*, Italian; *pisstachia*,
Latin.]

The *pisstachio* is a dry fruit of an oblong figure, pointed at
both ends about half an inch in length, and a third of an inch
in thickness: it has a double shell, the exterior one mem-
branaceous and thin, the inner hard, tough and woody:

the kernel is of a green colour and a soft and unctuous sub-
stance, much like the pulp of an almond, of a pleasant taste:

pisstachios were known to the ancients, and the Arabians call
them *pestich* and *sestich*, and we sometimes *pisstich* nuts. *Hill.*

Pisstachios, so they be good, and not musty, joined with al-
monds, are an excellent nourisher. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

PISTE. *n. f.* [French.] The track or tread a horseman makes
upon the ground he goes over.

PISTILLATION. *n. f.* [*pisillum*, Lat.] The act of pounding in
a mortar.

The best diamonds we have are comminable, and so far
from breaking hammers, that they submit unto *pisillation*,
and resist not an ordinary pebble. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PISTOL. *n. f.* [*pisstole*, Fr.] A small handgun.

Three watch the door with *pisstole*, that none should issue
out. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.*

The whole body of the horie passed within *pisstole*-shot of
the cottage. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Quicksilver discharged from a *pisstole* will hardly pierce
through a parchment. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

A woman had a tubercle in the great canthus of the eye, of
the bigness of a *pisstole*-bullet. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

To **PISTOLE**. *v. a.* [*pisstoler*, Fr.] To shoot with a *pisstole*.

PISTOLE. *n. f.* [*pisstole*, Fr.] A coin of many countries and
many degrees of value.

I shall disburden him of many hundred *pisstoles*, to make
him lighter for the journey. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

PISTOLET. *n. f.* [diminutive of *pisstole*.] A little *pisstole*.

Those unlickt bear-whelps, unlickt *pisstoles*

That, more than cannon-shot, avails or lets. *Donne.*

PISTON. *n. f.* [*pisstion*, Fr.] The movable part in several ma-
chines; as in pumps and syringes, whereby the suction or at-
traction is caused; an embolus.

PIT. *n. f.* [Saxon.]

1. A hole in the ground.

Get you gone,
And from the *pit* of Acheron
Meet me i' th' morning. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

Tumble me into some loathsome *pit*,
Where never man's eye may behold my body. *Shakefp.*

Our enemies have beat us to the *pit*;
It is more worthy to leap in ourselves,
Than tarry 'till they push us. *Shakefp. Julius Caesar.*

Pits upon the sea-shore turn into fresh water, by percola-
tion of the salt through the sand; but in some places of Africa,
the water in such *pits* will become brackish again. *Bacon.*

2. Abyss; profundity.

Into what *pit* thou see'st
From what height fallen. *Milton.*

3. The grave.

O Lord, think no scorn of me, lest I become like them
that go down into the *pit*. *Psalms xxviii. 1.*

4. The area on which cocks fight; whence the phrase, to fly
the *pit*.

Make him glad, at least, to quit
His victory, and fly the *pit*. *Hudibras.*

They managed the dispute as fiercely, as two game-cocks
in the *pit*. *Locke on Education.*

5. The middle part of the theatre.

Let Cully, Cockwood, Fopling charm the *pit*,
And in their folly shew the writers wit. *Dryden.*

Now luck for us, and a kind hearty *pit*;
For he who pleases, never fails of wit. *Dryden.*

6. [*Pis*, *pis*, old Fr. from *pelus*, Lat.] Any hollow of the
body: as, the *pit* of the stomach; the arm *pit*.

7. A dint made by the finger.

To **PIT**. *v. a.* To sink in hollows.

An anasarca, a species of dropsy, is characterised by the
shining and softness of the skin, which gives way to the least
impression, and remains *pitted* for some time. *Sharp.*

PITAPAT. *n. f.* [probably from *pas* a *pas*, or *patte* a *patte*, Fr.]

PIT

1. A flutter; a palpitation.

A lion meets him, and the fox's heart went *pitapat*. *L'Estr.*

2. A light quick step.

Now I hear the *pitapat* of a pretty foot through the dark
alley: no, 'tis the son of a mare that's broken loose, and
munching upon the melons. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*

PITCH. *n. f.* [*pic*, Sax. *pix*, Lat.] The resin of the pine ex-
tracted by fire and inspissated.

They that touch *pitch* will be defiled. *Proverbs.*

Of air and water mixed together, and consumed with fire,
is made a black colour; as in charcoal, oil, *pitch* and
links. *Peacham on Drawing.*

A vessel smeared round with *pitch*.

3. [From *picci*, Fr. *Skinner*.] Any degree of elevation or
height.

Lovely concord and most sacred peace
Doth nourish virtue, and fast friendship breeds,
Weak makes strong, and strong things does increase,
Till it the *pitch* of highest praise exceeds. *Fairy Queen.*

How high a *pitch* his resolution soars.

Arm thy heart, and fill thy thoughts
To mount aloft with thy imperial mistress,
And mount her *pitch*. *Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus.*

Between two hawks, which flies the higher *pitch*,
I have, perhaps, some shallow judgment. *Shakefp.*

Down they fell,
Driv'n headlong from the *pitch* of heav'n, down
Into this deep. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iii.*

Cannons shoot the higher *pitch*,
The lower we let down their breeches. *Hudibras.*

Alcibiades was one of the best orators of his age, not-
withstanding he lived at a time when learning was at the
highest *pitch*. *Addison's Whig Examiner.*

4. Highest rise.

A beauty wailing, and distressed widow,
Seduced the *pitch* and height of all his thoughts
To base declension and loath'd bigamy. *Shakefp.*

5. State with respect to lowness or height.

From this high *pitch* let us descend
A lower flight; and speak of things at hand. *Milton.*

By how much from the top of wondrous glory,
Strongest of mortal men,
To lowest *pitch* of abject fortune thou art fall'n. *Milton.*

6. Degree; stature.

That infernal monster having cast
His weary foe into the living well,
'Gan high advance his broad discoloured breast
Above his wonted *pitch*. *Fairy Queen.*

Were the whole frame here,
It is of such a spacious lofty *pitch*,
Your roof were not sufficient to contain it. *Shakefp.*

It turn'd itself to Ralpho's shape;
So like in person, garb and *pitch*,
'Twas hard t' interpret which was which. *Hudibras.*

7. Degree; rate.

To overcome in battle, and subdue
Nations, and bring home spoils, with infinite
Manlaughter, shall be held the highest *pitch*
Of human glory. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xi.*

Our resident Tom
From Venice is come,
And hath left the statesman behind him,
Talks at the same *pitch*,
Is as wise, is as rich,
And just where you left him, you find him. *Denham.*

Princes that fear'd him, grieve; concern'd to see
No *pitch* of glory from the grave is free. *Waller.*

Evangelical innocence, such as the gospel accepts, though
mingled with several infirmities and defects, yet amounts to
such a *pitch* of righteousness, as we call sincerity. *South.*

When the sun's heat is thus far advanced, 'tis but just
come up to the *pitch* of another set of vegetables, and but
great enough to excite the terrestrial particles, which are more
ponderous. *Woodward's Natural History.*

To **PITCH**. *v. a.* [*appiciare*, Italian.]

1. To fix; to plant.

On Dardan plains the Greeks do *pitch*
Their brave pavilions. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*

Sharp stakes, plucked out of hedges,
They *pitched* in the ground. *Shakefp. Henry VI.*

He counselled him how to hunt his game,
What dart to cast, what net, what to *pitch*. *Fairfax.*

David prepared a place for the ark of God, and *pitched* for
it a tent. *1 Chron. xv. 1.*

Mahometes *pitched* his tents in a little meadow.

When the victor
Had conquered Thebes, he *pitched* upon the plain
His mighty camp. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*

To Chaffis' pleasing plains he took his way,
There *pitch'd* his tents, and there resolv'd to stay. *Dryden.*

The trenches first they pass'd, then took their way
Where their proud foes in *pitch'd* pavilions lay. *Dryden.*

2. To

PIT

2. To order regularly.

In setting down the form of common prayer, there was
no need to mention the learning of a fit, or the unfitness of
an ignorant minister, more than that he, which describeth
the manner how to *pitch* a field, should speak of moderation
and sobriety in diet. *Hooker, b. v. f. 31.*

One *pitched* battle would determine the fate of the Spanish
continent. *Addison on the State of the War.*

3. To throw headlong; to cast forward.

They'll not *pitch* me i' th' mire,
Unless he bid 'em. *Shakefp. Tempest.*

They would wrestle, and *pitch* the bar for a whole after-
noon. *Spectator, N° 434.*

4. To smear with **PITCH**. [*picca*, Lat. from the noun.]

The ark *pitch* within and without. *Genesis vi. 14.*

The Trojans mount their ships, born on the waves,
And the *pitch'd* vessels glide with easy force. *Dryden.*

Some *pitch* the ends of the timber in the walls, to preserve
them from the mortar. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*

I *pitched* over the convex very thinly, by dropping melted
pitch upon it, and warming it to keep the *pitch* soft, whilst
I ground it with the concave copper wetted to make it spread
evenly all over the convex. *Newton's Opticks.*

5. To darken.

The air hath star'd the roses in her cheeks,
And *pitch'd* the lily tincture of her face. *Shakefp.*

Rose early from his bed; but soon he found
The welkin *pitch'd* with fullen cloud. *Addison.*

6. To pave.

To **PITCH**. *v. n.*

1. To light; to drop.

When the swarm is settled, take a branch of the tree
whereon they *pitch*, and wipe the hive clean. *Mortimer.*

2. To fall headlong.

The courier o'er the pommel cast the knight;
Forward he flew, and *pitching* on his head,
He quiver'd with his feet, and lay for dead. *Dryden.*

3. To fix choice.

We think 'tis no great matter which,
They're all alike, yet we shall *pitch*
On one that fits our purpose. *Hudibras.*

A free agent will *pitch* upon such a part in his choice, with
knowledge certain. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

The subject I have *pitched* upon may seem improper. *South.*

I *pitched* upon this consideration that parents owe their chil-
dren, not only material subsistence, but much more spiritual
contribution to their mind. *Digby on the Soul.*

The covetous man was a good while at a stand; but he
came however by degrees to *pitch* upon one thing after an-
other. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

Pitch upon the best course of life, and custom will render
it the most easy. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

I translated Chaucer, and amongst the rest *pitched* on the
wife of Bath's tale. *Dryden's Fables.*

4. To fix a tent or temporary habitation.

They *pitched* by Emmaus in the plain. *1 Mac. iii. 40.*

PITCHER. *n. f.* [*pitcher*, French.]

1. An earthen vessel; a water pot.

With sudden fear her *pitcher* down she threw
And fled away. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

Pitchers have ears, and I have many servants;
Besides old Gremio is hearkening. *Shakefp.*

Pyricus was only famous for counterfeiting all base things;
as earthen *pitchers* and a scullery. *Peacham on Drawing.*

Hylas may drop his *pitcher*, none will cry,
Not if he drown himself. *Dryden.*

2. An instrument to pierce the ground in which any thing is to
be fixed.

To the hills poles must be set deep in the ground, with a
square iron *pitcher* or crow. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PITCHFORK. *n. f.* [*pitch* and *fork*.] A fork with which corn
is thrown upon the waggon.

An old lord in Leicestershire amused himself with mending
pitchforks and spades for his tenants gratis. *Swift.*

PITCHINESS. *n. f.* [from *pitchy*.] Blackness; darkness.

PITCHY. *adj.* [from *pitch*.]

1. Smeared with *pitch*.

The planks, their *pitchy* coverings wash'd away,
Now yield; and now a yawning breach display. *Dryden.*

2. Having the qualities of *pitch*.

Native petroleum, found floating upon some springs, is no
other than this very *pitchy* substance, drawn forth of the strata
by the water. *Woodward on Fossils.*

3. Black; dark; dismal.

Night is fled,
Whole *pitchy* mantle over-veil'd the earth. *Shakefp.*

I will for a *pitchy* day for thee. *Shakefp. Henry VI.*

Pitchy and dark the night sometimes appears,
Friend to our woe, and parent of our fears;
Our joy and wonder sometimes the excites,
With stars unnumber'd. *Prior.*

PIT

PITCOAL. *n. f.* [*pit* and *coal*.] Fossil coal.

The best fuel is peat, the next charcoal made of *pitcoal* of
cinders. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PIT-MAN. *n. f.* [*pit* and *man*.] He that in sawing timber works
below in the pit.

With the *pitman* they enter the one end of the stuff, the
topman at the top, and the *pitman* under him: the topman
observing to guide the saw exactly, and the *pitman* drawing it
with all his strength perpendicularly down. *Moxon.*

PIT-SAW. *n. f.* [*pit* and *saw*.] The large saw used by two
men, of whom one is in the pit.

The *pit-saw* is not only used by those workmen that saw
timber and boards, but is also for small matters used by
joiners. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*

PITEOUS. *adj.* [from *pity*.]

1. Sorrowful; mournful; exciting pity.

When they heard that *piteous* strained voice,
In haste forsook their rural merriment. *Fairy Queen.*

The most arch deed of *piteous* malice,
That ever yet this land was guilty of. *Shakefp. Rich. III.*

Which when Deucalion with a *piteous* look
Beheld, he wept. *Dryden.*

2. Compassionate; tender.

If the series of thy joys
Permit one thought less cheerful to arise,
Piteous transfer it to the mournful swain. *Prior.*

She gave him, *piteous* of his case,
A shaggy tap'try. *Pope's Dunciad.*

3. Wretched; paltzy; pitiful.

Piteous amends! unless
Be meant our grand foe. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

PITEOUSLY. *adv.* [from *piteous*.] In a *piteous* manner.

I must talk of murders, rapes and massacres,
Ruthful to hear, yet *piteously* perform'd. *Shakefp.*

PITEOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *piteous*.] Sorrowfulness; tenderness.

PITFALL. *n. f.* [*pit* and *fall*.] A pit dug and covered, into
which a passenger falls unexpectedly.

Poor bird! thou'd'st never fear the net nor lime,
The *pitfall* nor the gin. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

Thieves dig concealed *pitfalls* in his way. *Sandys.*

These hidden *pitfalls* were set thick at the entrance of the
bridge, so that throngs of people fell into them. *Addison.*

PITH. *n. f.* [*pitte*, Dutch.]

1. The marrow of the plant; the soft part in the middle of the
wood.

If a cion, fit to be set in the ground, hath the *pith* finely
taken forth, and not altogether, but some of it left, it will bear
a fruit with little or no core. *Bacon's Natural History.*

Her solid bones convert to solid wood,
To *pith* her marrow, and to sap her blood. *Dryden.*

2. Marrow.

As doth the *pith*, which left our bodies slack,
Strings fast the little bones of neck and back;
So by the foul doth death string heav'n and earth. *Donne.*

The vertebrae are all perforated in the middle, with a large
hole for the spinal marrow or *pith* to pass along. *Ray.*